

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER: Nguyen, V. X.

TITLE: LOAD-CONTROLLED AUTO-ACTUATED SKIN INCISION DEVICE

Amendment A: REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claims 1 - 19 have been canceled and new Claims 20 - 27 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a proper condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 - 6, 8 - 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Mawhirt patent. Importantly, it was indicated that Claims 7 and 10 were “objected to” as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s anticipation rejections, Applicant is desirous of securing patent protection for the present invention at an early date. As such, Applicant has placed those “objected to” claims into a proper independent form.

In particular, new independent Claim 20 incorporates the limitations of previous independent Claim 1, along with the limitations of objected-to Claim 7 and the intervening Claims 4 - 6. As such, independent Claim 20 should be in a proper condition for allowance. Dependent Claims 21 and 22 reflect the limitations of previous dependent Claims 2 and 3. Dependent Claims 23 - 26 reflect the limitations of previous dependent Claims 8 - 11.

New independent Claim 27 incorporates the limitations of objected-to Claim 12, along with the limitations of base Claim 1. As such, independent Claim 27 should now be in a proper condition for allowance.

Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claims 20 and 27 are now in proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon these independent claims should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no new claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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